Loopholes in functioning of mines

2756. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the inquiry report of mines has pointed out various loopholes in functioning of the mines like lack of uniformity in conducting safety audits, contradictory practices in installation of rescue equipments, outdated methods in preparation and updation of mine maps and shortage of surveyors; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve the functioning of mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Ministry of Mines is not aware of any such inquiry report of mines wherein various loopholes in functioning of the Mines as mentioned in the question has been pointed out. The position has been ascertained from Ministry of Labour also which administers the Mines Act, 1952 and they too are not aware of any such report.

(b) Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office of the Ministry carries out inspection of Mines to ensure their compliance with the provisions of Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988 (MCDR). During inspections, the mining lessees are offered field guidance for conservation of minerals, scientific mining and protection of environment so that the mining operations are carried out in accordance with provisions of MCDR, 1988.

Indo-Australian Cooperation in Mining and Exploration

2757. SHRI RAASHID ALVI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Australia are all set to expand cooperation in the field of mining and exploration;

(b) whether CM, in cooperation with the Australian Trade Commission has monitored a high level 15-Member delegation to